



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
Mount Rogers National Recreation Area
3714 Highway 16
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-5196

Contact: Area Ranger Beth Merz, 276-783-5196

Today's Date: Monday, December 3, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BRISTOL VIRGINIA UTILITIES BEGINS INSTALLATION
OF FIBER OPTIC CABLE ALONG VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL**

Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU) will begin installation of fiber optic cable along the Virginia Creeper Trail between Straight Branch and Taylor's Valley, on Monday, December 3, 2012. This operation will provide high speed internet service to the small rural community of Taylor's Valley in Washington County.

BVU obtained a special use permit from the USDA Forest Service, following careful consideration of environmental factors and use patterns on the popular Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail. Only a 2.3-mile portion of the trail on the national forest section will be affected. Construction activities will allow trail traffic to continue, although some delays of up to 30 minutes may be necessary. Trail users are cautioned to follow the direction of construction personnel as heavy equipment will be present for several weeks.

The cable will be placed entirely below ground, or will be attached to the underside of trestles at creek crossings. Once installation is complete, trail users should see no signs of the new cable.

Please contact the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area at 276-783-5196 with any questions regarding this operation.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.